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THE
Free-Holders Plea
AGAINST
STOCK-JOBGING
Elections of PARLIAMENT Men.

THE

of Soldiers

AGAINST

STOCK



Elections of PARLIAMENT

T H E *Freeholder*
Free-Holders Plea
AGAINST
STOCK-JOBGING
ELECTIONS
O F
Parliament Men.

The Second Edition, with Additions.

LONDON:
Printed in the Year 1701.

THE
FREE-BORN
AGAINST
STOCKJOBBERING
ELECTIONS
OF
PARLIAMENT MEN.

The Second Edition, with Additions.

LONDON:
Printed in the Year 1791.

T H E

Free-Holders Plea

A G A I N S T

STOCK-JOBGING

Elections of PARLIAMENT Men.

OF all the Nations in the World, we may say, without Detracting from the Character of our Native Country, that *England* has, for some Ages past, been the most Distracted with Divisions and Parties among themselves.

Union and Charity, the one relating to our Civil, the other to Religious Concerns, are Strangers in the Land; and whether we speak of difference in Opinions, or differences in Interest, we must own that we are the most

A

Divi-

Divided, Quarrellsome Nation under the Sun.

Poland is the only Nation of *Europe* which can pretend to Match us in this Ill-natur'd Quality, and yet, all things examin'd, *Poland* cannot come near us.

'Twas a true Character given of us, by the wisest Princess that ever Govern'd us, Queen *Elizabeth*, that the *English* were harder to be Govern'd in time of Peace than War.

What Experience our present Governors have had of this Old Maxim in the short Peace we have had, we leave to every Man's Observation.

Not to enter into the History of the Divisions, and civil Disturbances in the Nation's Peace, which is too fresh in our Memories; and cannot be review'd without sensible Regret by any Man, who Loves his Country, or has the least regard to its Prosperity or Reputation.

Yet we cannot but express our sense of the Encrease, and more than ordinary progress of this wrangling Temper, on the present Affairs of the Publick; and with what Fatal success it Invades us in the most Minute, and most tender Parts; with what subtilty it spreads its contagious Qualities into the Vitals of the State; and
from

from thence descends into the less Noble Parts, the Trade of the Nation.

Religion and the State have felt the plague of Contention, eating out the very Entrails of the Nation, and with a sort of alternate Motion, have equally come under its Malignant Effects for almost Four entire Centuries of Years, and as if it was not enough to hurt us in those two Essentials of our Peace, behold the Plague is broke out in our Trade, which is the third, and next to the other two, the Supreme Article of the Kingdoms Prosperity.

Wherefore we the Yeomandry, and poor Freeholders of *England*, having, God knows, no Hand in the Differences, tho' we have a deep share in the Damages, do take the freedom to make our just Remarks upon the causes; which, as we apprehend, have conduc'd too much to the present unhappy Divisions of the Nation; and which, if some care be not taken to prevent it, may compleat the Ruin of us all.

The Wisdom of late Parliaments have Establish'd two great Rivals in Trade, the Old, and the New *East-India* Companies.

We do not pretend to Arraign the Justice of those *Wonderful and Unintelligible Assemblies*, if they
were

were in being, we dare not, and, since they are not in being, 'tis not very Honourable, you'll say, to speak ill of the Dead.

But thus far, we hope, without Offence, we may be allow'd to give our Opinions in this particular Affair, that tho' separately and distinctly, every part of the proceedings of those Parliaments, might be literally and positively Just and Right, we mean as to the *East-India Companies*.

Yet when they are Conjunctively, and in the General put together, and reflected on, they seem to be clouded both as to the publick Interest; and as to the Honour of the proceedings, with dark Enigma's of State, and Inexplicable Paradoxes, too hard for us to understand, such as these,

1. That during the Being of one Company, and before the Extent of their Charter, and Privileges were Expir'd, we mean the 3 Years allowed them for bringing Home their Effects, there should be Erected a New Company, with power of immediate Trade.

Had the New Company not commenc'd their Trade, till the time of the Old was expir'd, or near it, there might have been a Succession of Companies, not two Rival Companies in Being together.

2. That

2. That the manner of Trading by the New Company should be so Order'd, as that the Old Company by Subscribing shou'd enable themselves to Trade separately, as a Company still; and that with so Capital a Stock, as always to share the Trade with the New Company; and so at the same time two Contraries be upheld by the same Authority.

Had the New Company been so Establish'd, that at the Expiration of the Old, it shou'd have had a Commanding Superiority, by which no other Men cou'd have Traded, but under them, by Permission at the same time, leaving all Men at liberty to come in and Trade with them, there had been then no Rivals in the Trade, which will, no question, as they now stand, soon reduce the Trade to very low Terms.

3. That after this New Company was Establish'd, and the Money paid in, to the Use of the Government, which some say was the thing which first mov'd the Conception of a New Company, and which, if the Old Company wou'd have procur'd, they had never been Broke, nor the New one Born. That after this New Company was Erected, the Stock advanc'd, and the Money to the Government pay'd, they shou'd prohibit by Act of Parliament Two Thirds of their Trade, and so starve the Child they had Begotten.

If the Trade was ruinous to the English Manufactures, and the Interest of the Nation, it shou'd have been foreseen, before Gentlemen had paid their Money, or else it shou'd not have been Examin'd afterwards.

4. That after all this they shou'd grant a New Charter to the Old Company, by Virtue of which they have both Power and time to Trade, to the prejudice of the New, even to their Hearts content.

We say nothing of those particulars, but thus, that really we do not understand the consistency of them with themselves, they stand to us as Arcana's of Policy, too high to be medled with.

Nor shou'd we trouble our Heads about them, but leave both Companies to confound one another, as we believe they will; but that we find so great a part of the Nation concern'd in their Quarrel, as gives us cause to Observe, that the Issue of them seems to threaten the Nation with something Fatal.

For the Power of these two Rivals is so great, and their Interest in the Kingdom so popular and High, that matters of higher Moment than Trade seem to depend upon them, while all the proceedings of their Members, both in the City, and in the late Parliament, in both which
their

their Parties have been numerous, are, and have been guided, according to their Interest in their respective Companies.

The Grand Work which the whole Nation is now Intent upon, is chusing their Representatives in Parliament, chusing Men to meet, and advise with the King about the most Important Affairs of the Kingdom.

And while all Men ought to be fixing their Eyes upon such Men as are best Qualified to Sit in that place of Honour, and to Examine who are fittest to be Intrusted with the Religion and Peace of *England*, and perhaps of all *Europe*.

Here we are plagu'd with the Impertinence of two *East India* Companies, as if the Interest of either Company were to be nam'd in the Day with the *Protestant Religion and the publick Peace*, or as if they, who are fit to be Representatives of the People in the great Matters of Peace and War, Leagues, and Alliances of Neighbours, Succession of Crowns, and Protection of the Protestant Religion, should not be capable of deciding the petty Controversy in Trade between two Rivial Companies.

The Grand Question ask'd now, when your Vote is requir'd for a Parliament Man, is not as it ought to be, Is he a Man of Sense, of Religion, of Honesty and Estate ?

But

But, What Company is he for, the New, or the Old?

If Mr. *A. M.* set up as a Candidate in a Neighbouring Borough, Who set him up? 'Tis known he is no Inhabitant there, nor ever was, has no Free-hold, or Copy-hold, or Lease-hold Estate there, nor is not known there, and of himself possibly was not acquainted with 20 People there.

But enquire what Company he is for; and then see if all the rest of that Company were not found running over the Water, to make their Interest with their Friends for his Election.

And the Time would fail us, and the Paper too, to give you a List of the *Shop-Keepers*, *Merchants*, and *Pedlers*, and the *Stock-Jobbers*, who, with their *Hir'd Liveries*, in *Coaches*, and *Six-Horses*, who, *God knows*, never had Coach or Livery of their own, are come down into the Countreys, being detatch'd from *London*, by either Company to get themselves chosen Parliament-Men, by those Boroughs, who are easie to be Impos'd upon, and who, like well-meaning Men, that know nothing of the matter, chuse them upon the Recommendation of the Country Gentlemen that have Interest in the Towns, which

Countr y

Country Gentlemen are prevail'd upon to quit their own pretensions, to advance theirs ; but by what Arguments we cannot pretend to Determine.

We have formerly been told that spending Money upon the Inhabitants of Towns, was a pernicious practice ; and no doubt it was, and an Act of Parliament has been wisely made to prevent it.

What any Man cou'd propose to himself by spending 2000 (nay, 11000 pound was spent at the Town of *Winchelsea*) to be chosen to Sit in a House, where there is not one Farthing to be gotten honestly, was a Mystery every one did not understand.

But here is a New way of getting Money : For if a Country Gentleman has so much Interest in a Town, that he can be chosen a Member of Parliament, if he will decline it, here is a sort of Folks they call *Stock-Jobbers*, will help him to 21000 G---s for his Interest.

This is *Parliament-Jobbing*, a New Trade, which as we thought it the Duty of *English* Free-holders thus to expose, we hope an *English* Parliament will think it their Duty to prevent.

B

For

For as this Stock-Jobbing in its own Nature, is only a new Invented sort of *Deceptio Visus*, a *Legerde-main* in Trade ; so mix'd with Trick and Cheat, that twou'd puzzle a good *Logician* to make it out by *Syllogism* : So nothing can be more Fatal in *England* to our present Constitution ; and which in time may be so to our Liberty and Religion, than to have the Interests of Elections Jobb'd upon Exchange for Mony, and Transfer'd like *East-India* Stock, for those who bid most.

By this Method, the Country Gentlemen may sit at Home ; and only Corresponding with the Brokers at *Jonathan's* and *Garraway's*, as the Prizes Rise or Fall, may dispose of their Interests in the Towns they can Govern, at as good a rate as they can.

The Citizens, or such who have their several Companies and Interest to Serve, will ease themselves of the Expence of Travelling, with the fine borrow'd Equipages before mention'd ; and only go to Market in *Exchange-Alley*, and Buy an Election, as the *Stock-Jobber* and they shall agree, which Election shall be manag'd by the Country Gentleman, who is to have his Bargain, no Purchase, no Pay, and is to go thro' with it, or else he gets none of the Mony.

Ele-

Elections of Parliament-men are in a hopeful way ; and Parliaments themselves, are in a hopeful way by this concise Method of Practice, to come under the absolute management of a few Hands, and no doubt things will go on accordingly.

Banks and Stocks may be lay'd up, and employ'd in a short time, for the purchasing the Interest of Gentlemen, and our Gentry being willing to get a Penny in *an Honest way*, as we say, will but too often sell their Interests, and their Country too, especially such Gentlemen, whose Estates are reduc'd to an occasion for it.

The truth of it is, 'tis a Paradox, a Riddle, that we Country-men cannot understand, nor never cou'd, what makes our Gentlemen so fond of being Parliament-men, we do not very well understand what the Business is at the Parliament. Only we find we are *swingingly-Tax'd*; and they tell us 'tis done by the Parliament; but we never understood they had any of the Money themselves, we always thought the Money was for the King, tho' they had the Giving of it, then we see in the King's *Proclamation* for Calling a Parliament, that it was to Advise with them, about Affairs of the Highest Importance to the

Kingdom. Now we cannot see they can get any thing by coming together to be Advis'd with, and our Knights of the Shire tell us they get nothing by it. And here lies the Difficulty, we can never reconcile their spending so much Money to be chosen, going up 200 miles to *London*, and spending six months sometimes there in attending the House, and all for nothing; we have often been thinking there must be something else in the case, and we are afraid there is.

Nor did ever any thing explain this Riddle so much, as the struggling of these two Companies to make Members of Parliament; for the meaning to us seems thus:

That they suppose which Company soever gets most Friends in the House, will be most likely to be farther Establish'd, to the Ruin of the other, and therefore they make such a stir to get Friends there.

Whence first it must be suppos'd that the Matter shall not stand or fall by true merit, and that Company be suppress'd that deserves it; for if so, *it might be probable they wou'd both be suppress'd*; for we apprehend they are both Destructive to our *English* Trade in general, and Manufactures in particular.

But

But 2. It must be suppos'd that Friendship, and Number of Voices only will decide the Controversy.

And in order to this the *Stock-Jobbers*, who care not a Farthing which Side gets the better, but make a Prey of them both, have set up this new Trade of Jobbing for Elections: And that the way of their proceeding may be a little plainer understood, We desire you to read the Copy of a Letter come down last Post, to a worthy Gentleman in our Country, from a Friend of his plying in, or near *Exchange-Ally*, concerning this matter.

SIR,

THE Elections for a New Parliament being begun almost every where, I doubt not but the Time is fixt at your Town of - - - - - I know you have the Absolute Power of the Inhabitants there, and can put in whom you please; and finding by your last you purpose to Decline it your Self, I am to inform you, that a very honest Gentleman of my Acquaintance, being an Eminent Merchant here, wou'd think himself very much Oblig'd, if you wou'd Use your Interest in his behalf, upon your Grant whereof I have an Order to Present you with a Thousand Guinea's to buy my Lady —

He

He is ready to come down at your first Summons, in a very good Equipage ; Pray dispatch your Mind per the Bearer, to

Your humble Servant,

To the Honourable
Sir A, B, C, D, Bar.

Postscript.

I*F Sir E, F, G, H, will dispose of his Interest in the Town of ----- I can help him to very good Terms.*

Now tho' the worthy Gentleman to whom this Proposal was made, rejected it with Disdain, yet the Attempt is made very plain in the case.

And we are inform'd, that the Number of Members come down into the Countries, on such accounts, are incredible.

Wherefore we think it very needful to publish our Resentments at such a practice, and to protest against it in this our *Honest Plea*, as an indirect, wicked and pernicious practice, and which may be of very ill consequence to the Nation, on these following Accounts,

1. A Hundred, or an Hundred and fifty such Members in the House, wou'd make a Dead Weight,

Weight, as is us'd to be call'd, to carry any Vote they are For, or Against, either in the Negative or Affirmative, as they shall agree, and if so, it will be almost in their power to dispose of our Estates, Persons, Liberties and Religion, as they think fit.

2. If it be true, as is very rational to suppose, that *they who will Buy will Sell*; or if it be true, which seems still more rational, that *they who have Bought must Sell*, must make a Penny of it, or else they lose their *Purchase*, and some their Fortunes, which they expected to raise by these mercenary Elections; then the Influence of such a Number of Members, gotten into the House by the method We are speaking of, will be capable of selling our Trade, our Religion, our Peace, our Effects, our King, our Crown, and every thing that is Valluable, or Dear to the Nation.

If *Stock-jobbing* of Elections be the first step, in all probability *Stock-jobbing* of Votes will be the second; for he that will give a Thousand pounds or more, only for a power to Vote, expects to get something by Voting, or gives away his Money for nothing.

What

What shall we say then, if a League of Confederacy shou'd be made between our *Parliament-Sollicitors*, and our *Stock-Jobbing-Brokers*, two Sort of People equally mercenary and Deceitful.

We desire to know, whether 'twould not be more fatal to *England* than the Union of *France* and *Spain*, which all *Europe* seems to be so much disturb'd at.

In vain do We the Free-Holders of *England* strive to chuse Men of all the Six Characters, mention'd by a late Author, in order to have a Parliament every way Quallified for the Important Affair, his Majesty has mention'd in his Proclamation.

In vain shall those Gentlemen We chose Sit and Vote in the House, if such a Generation as We hear of are let into the House, by the help of their Money at the Boroughs and Towns, for the Citizens and Burgeses! out-run the Knights in number above Three for One.

We think 'tis no small misfortune to the *English* Constitution, that so great a Number of Members are chosen by the Corporations of *England*, and, according to our weak Opinions, it seems not equal, That all the Free-holders of a Country should

shou'd be represented only by two Men, and the Towns in the same County be represented by above Forty, as it is in *Cornwall*, and near the like in other Counties.

Again in some of these Corporations, where the right of Voting is in the Mayor and Jurats; in some the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council; in others the Mayor, Aldermen, and Capital Burgeses; in others the Bayliff and Jurats, and the like, the right of Voting is reduc'd to so few, and those so Mean and Mercenary, that they are easily prevail'd with, to chuse such as they know not, but are recommended by others.

And, which is worse, some Towns whose Charters remain, tho' the Towns themselves seem to be Dead, are so mean and contemptible, that nothing remains of them but a Despicable Village, with the Ruins of what they have been.

We think it wou'd be but reasonable, that the Charters and Priviledges of Towns, shou'd die with the Towns; and that whereas when they were Popolous and Rich, they were Represented in Parliament, because they were so; when they are Depopulated and Desolate, there can be no need of any Person to represent them, what can

the Members, who have serv'd for the Town of *Winchelsea* answer, if they were ask'd, who they Represent, they must Answer they Represent the Ruins and Vaults, the remains of a good Old Town, now lying in Heaps; as for the Inhabitants, they are not to be Nam'd among the List of the most despicable Endships, or Village in the County.

Branber in *Sussex*, *Old Sarum*, *Stockbridge*, *Gatton*, *Quinburro*, and multitudes of Towns the like, who send up Gentlemen to represent Beggars, and have had more Mony spent at some of their Elections, than all the Land in the Parishes wou'd be worth, if Sold at a Hundred Years Purchase.

While on the other Hand, a great many good Towns in *England*, being of more modern Rise in the World, are not permitted to chuse at all, and the City of *London* it self, tho' some say it bears a proportion to Six parts of the Kingdom, sends but Four Members of it self; and but Eight in the whole Circumference.

This Inequality, we humbly conceive opens the Door to the fraudulent practices, which have all along been made use of in Elections, Buying of Voices, giving Freedoms in Corporations, to People Living out of Corporations, on purpose
to

to make Votes, debauching the Electors, making whole Towns Drunk, and Feasting them to Excess for a Month, sometimes two, or more, in order to engage their Voices.

These things were so Notorious, and withal so Ruinous to the Gentry themselves, of whom several Men of plentiful Estates have been miserably Beggar'd and undone, that the Parliament wisely took notice of it, and have prohibited the practice.

But as if the Devil ow'd the Nation a Grudge, and was rummaging his Invention to Pay it; here is a new project found out, to succeed the other, which is Ten Fold more the Child of Hell than that.

Elections were obtain'd by those Clandestine Vicious ways, only to sit in the House in General; but here the design seems to be form'd before-hand, what they wou'd be chosen for, and the measures concerted, nay we have heard that it may be known already, and Wagers have been layd in, or near *Exchange Alley*, which Company has most Friends in the ensuing Parliament, and how many of the Members of each Company stand fairest to be chosen.

Those Gentlemen who have Intelligence, suitable

able to such nice Calculations, are equally capable of Jobbing the whole Nation; and as is already noted, having gotten the way of Buying and Selling, that is Jobbing Elections, will soon influence such Persons to Act, as the Money they are able to bid shall direct.

'Twould be but a melancholly Thought, to reflect that the matter of our Succession, should come to be debated before a Parliament, that had a Governing number of such Members, who could imagine but that the settlement of our Crown would attend the highest bidder, and our future Liberty, Religion, and all that's dear to us, be Mortgag'd to the Bribes of Forreigners.

The *French* King need not keep great Armies on Foot, Build Ships, and strengthen himself at Sea to Ruin us, if the great Affairs of the Kingdom concerted in Parliament should come to be prepar'd, manag'd, and byas'd at *Garraway's* and *Jonathan's* Coffee-house, and expos'd to Sale by a parcel of Stock-Jobbers.

And how shall it be otherwise, they that can make Members, will always Govern Members; Creation supposes a Right of disposing, the Gentlemen who Buy are Oblig'd to stand in good Terms with the Broker, least they should find a better

Chap-

Chapman, and leave him in the lurch the next Election, so that by the Nature of the thing, they are always subject to this Mercenary, Scandalous thing, call'd a Broker, and he keeps them under his Girdle, if he bids them Vote for, or against, they do it, the mischiefs are endles and innumerable that may attend it.

To all Men whose Eyes are to be open'd with Reason and Argument, it shou'd be enough to fill them with abhorrence, to think that the Scandalous Mechanick Upstart Mistry of Job-broking should thus grow upon the Nation; that ever the *English* Nation shou'd suffer themselves to be Impos'd upon by the New invented ways of a few Needy Mercenaries, who can turn all Trade into a Lottery, and make the *Exchange* a Gaming Table: A thing, which like the Imaginary Coins of Foreign Nations, have no reality in themselves; but are plac'd as things which stand to be Calculated, and Reduc'd into Value, a Trade made up of Sharp and Trick, and manag'd with Impudence and Banter.

That Six or Eight Men shall Combine together, and by pretended Buying or Selling among themselves, raise or sink the Stock of the *E. India* Company, to what extravagant pitch of Price they

they will, so to wheedle others sometimes to Buy, sometimes to Sell, as their occasions require; and with so little regard to Intrinsick Value, or the circumstances of the Company, that when the Company has a loss, Stock shall Rise; when a great Sale, or a Rich Ship arriv'd, it shall Fall: Sometimes run the Stock down to 35 *l.* other times up to a 150 *l.* and by this Method Buy and Sell so much, that 'tis thought there are few of the Noted Stock-jobbers, but what have bought and sold more Stock than both the Companies possess.

Thus let them Jobb, Trick, and Cheat one another; and let them be bubb'd by them that know no better; but for God's sake, Gentlemen, do not let the Important Affairs of the State come under their wicked clutches.

Don't let them prepare our Acts of Parliament, and then chuse Members to Vote for them. If Fate and *Popish* Confederacies, and Union of *Popish* Powers abroad threaten us: Let us alone to struggle with them, and have Fair Law, and Honourable Conditions for it; but to be Bought and Sold, to have our Elections of Members, and our Laws, Liberties and Estates Stock-jobb'd away, is intollerable.

Some

Some, and not a few, of our Stock-jobbing Brokers, are *French Men*, a little Correspondence between the *French Court*, and *Jonathan's Coffee-house*, with a Currency of *Louis D'ors*, will make strange alterations here, if this method of Buying and Jobbing Elections shou'd go on.

The Parliament of *England*, is the Governing Council; their Breath is our Law, and on their Breath under the Direction of God's Providence, we all depend, the greatest Nicety that is possible should be us'd in chusing Men of untainted Principles, and unquestion'd Wisdom, to compose a Body so Eminent in their Power and Influence.

But to attempt to fill the House with Mechanics, Trades-men, Stock-jobbers, and Men neither of Sense nor Honesty, is striking at the Root, and undermining the Nation's Felicity at once; and 'tis a wonder the impudence of this attempt has not made them Stink in the Nostrils of the whole Nation.

How can the King be encourag'd to place that confidence in his People, which he mentions in the late *Proclamation*, by which People, his Majesty understands, the true Representative Body Assembled in Parliament, if instead of a
true

true Representative, the House is fill'd with Elections Glandestinely procur'd by Tricks and Shams impos'd upon the People.

How can the King depend upon his Parliament, to carry him thro' any thing he shall undertake by their advice, if mercenary Men fill the House, whose Suffrages shall be guided by the Bribes and private procurations of his, and the Nations Enemies?

How shall the Protestant Religion be Espous'd, and Defended, which wise Men say is in great Danger?

How shall Trade be Encourag'd, and Protected, and the Niceties of it Disputed and Defended?

How shall Reformation of Manners, which is so much wanted, and which the King has so often Recommended, be promoted?

Are Stock-jobbers, Agents of Regiments, Taylors, and *East India* Companies, Qualifi'd for these Works; or will any sort of Men, who Purchase Elections with Mony, to bring to pass private Interests and Parties, Espouse these General Cases on which the Welfare of the Nation depends.

Tell

Tell a Stock-jobber of the Union of *France* and *Spain*; of the *Muscovites* breaking the Peace; of the Difference between the *Danes*, and the Duke of *Holstein*, Tell him of a good Barrier in *Flanders* against the *French*, or of Assisting the *Emperor* on the *Rhine*, (talk Gospel to a Kettle Drum) 'tis all Excentrick and Foreign to him: But talk of the Great *Mogul*, and the Pirates of *Madagascar*; of Fort *St. George*, and *St. Helena*, there you'll hit him, and he turns States-man presently.

It was a Famous *Stock-Jobber*; and one who is very likely to be a Parliament Man, who when some body was talking lately of the Election of the New *Pope*; and having heard the particulars very attentively, brought out this very grave Question at the end ont. *Well!* says he, *I am glad 'tis over, and don't you think that Stock will rise upon't.*

A Learned Question upon the Case, truly; upon which, pray give us leave to ask another;
And is't not pity.

But such a one should Represent the City?

You *Londoners* may make them Sheriffs, *Al-*
dermen, Deputies, and Common-Council Men,
D and

and welcome ; you know them, and they can hurt no body but themselves.

But when you come to talk of Parliament Men, Gentlemen, pray consider, 'tis the whole Nation lies at Stake, a Man may set his own House on Fire, and welcome, provided it stands by it self, and neither hurts nor endangers no bodies else, and the Law has nothing to say to him ; but if it stands in a Town, or a City, he deserves to be Hang'd, for he may burn out, and undo his Neighbours.

Nor are you chusing Men to sit in Parliament, as Persons to Act for you only whom they Represent ; but they are Representatives in a double capacity, separately consider'd, every Member Represents the People who chuse him, and all together Represent the whole Nation. Their right to sit is separately Devolv'd ; but their right in Act, is conjunctively Inherent, every Man Represents the whole, and Acts for the whole, tho' he is sent but from part.

The Fate of *Bristol*, or *New Castle*, may be decided by a Member of *London*, or *Canterbury*, whose Vote on an equality of Voices carries it which way he pleases.

There-

Therefore *London* cannot say to *Bristol*, or *New-Castle*, What have you to do with our Election? Or, they to *London*, What have you to do with ours? why, one bad Member may ruin a City, a Town, or Family, a Person, or perhaps all together; and if any Town, or City, or Borough, or private Person, is pleas'd to give a Friendly Admonition, or Caution, to another, especially if they seem to be proceeding against their own, or the Nation's Interest, they ought to accept the Hint, and reflect upon what they are doing with Honesty, and reform it.

Upon this, we hope it shall be justified, that we have ventur'd to lay open the Villanous practices of some People to corrupt and procure Elections, in order to get Members into the ensuing Parliament, who shall serve a Turn, and a Party, without considering whether they are Men qualified for the other Great Affairs, which are to be consider'd there, and which His Majesty has assur'd us, are of the highest Importance to the Kingdom.

The CONCLUSION.

AFTER all that has been said, it must be allow'd, that whoever forwards, or foments the publick Divisions of the Nation, put their Hand to the Nation's ruin.

Divisions have a natural tendency to Distractions, whether it be *Jacobite* against *Williamite*, *Whig* against *Tory*, *Dissenter* against the *Church*, or *Church* against *Dissenter*; *New Company* against the *Old*, *Stock* against *Stock*, or whatever else it is divides us; so far as any of these Divisions extend to meddle with the Publick, so far they lessen the Nation's Interest, weaken the hands of the Government, Encourage the Enemies of our Prosperity, and endanger the Nations Peace.

'Tis

'Tis therefore humbly Recommended to every *honest English Man* to study Peace, and pursue it by all the proper Methods possible, that we may not open a Gap for our Ruine with our own hands : Which if we do not, we may the better be able to slight the Confederate Forces of Enemies abroad.

Nothing can preserve us at Home, nor enable us to Assist and Defend the Protestant Religion abroad, nothing can render us Formidable to our Neighbours, make our Arms terrible, and our Alliance be coveted in *Europe*, and maintain the Reputation of our Nation ; but Union among our Selves.

But above all, let us be careful that we are not Bought and Sold, *Stock-jobb'd* into Ruin ; that our Liberties and Armies, and Fleets, and Parliaments, and Nation, are not Lump'd into Bargains ; and handed about at the Coffee-Houses and *Exchange*, from whence they may be *Jobb'd* to who bids most, and a Price be set upon us, by which we shall make Peace, or War, at the pleasure of our Enemies.

As there is more meant by this than is express'd, so there is more Mischief hid under the Practice than I can describe.

It becomes us therefore to Crush the Brat in its Birth, and render all the hopes of our Enemies abortive, by a just Contempt of all such People, who, by any Methods so scandalous, attempt to get into the Directing part of the Government.

For this seems to be a plain Consequence, That he who makes use of any *Clandestine Methods* to get into the House of Commons, must have some *Clandestine Design* to carry on when he is there.

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F I N I S.

